

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01350 170024Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
EB-08 DOE-11 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00
OMB-01 PM-05 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00
ACDA-12 DOEE-00 /108 W
-----016633 170028Z /61

O 170020Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6695
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER CONGENS IN CANADA (POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 01350

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/CAN; EB

PASS DOE FOR LES GOLDMAN AND ASST. SECRETARY BERGOLD;

DOE/FERC FOR COMMISSIONER SMITH AND JOHN ADGER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, PGOV, SENV, CA
SUBJECT: SPECIAL COMMONS COMMITTEE APPROVES NORTHERN
GAS PIPELINE BILL

REF: OTTAWA 1313

1. SUMMARY. SPECIAL COMMONS COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED
NORTHERN GAS PIPELINE BILL AND RETURNED IT TO HOUSE
FOR THIRD AND FINAL READING. SOURCE IN NORTHERN PIPELINE
COMMISSION SAYS BILL WILL PASS BEFORE EASTER RECESS.
SOME PARLIAMENTARIANS, HOWEVER, PREDICT THAT FINAL PAS-
SAGE WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL PARLIAMENT RETURNS FROM
EASTER RECESS. WE ARE OBTAINING EXACT TEXT OF AMENDMENTS
FOR REVIEW OF THEIR POTENTIAL IMPACT ON U.S. INTERESTS.
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END SUMMARY.

2. SPECIAL COMMONS COMMITTEE APPROVED BILL C-25 TODAY
AND SENT IT BACK TO HOUSE FOR THIRD AND FINAL READING.
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE CONCERNED THAT BILL WOULD NOT
BE THROUGH COMMITTEE BEFORE MARCH 22 EASTER BREAK, BUT
GOVERNMENT DECISION TO ALLOW PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO

OVERSEE PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION CLEARED WAY FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL. THIS CONCESSION ELIMINATED HALF THE AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED BY PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE (PC) PARTY. THESE WERE WITHDRAWN AS COMMITTEE WORKED THROUGH 22 AMENDMENTS NIGHT OF MARCH 15 TO SET STAGE FOR APPROVAL TODAY. MAJOR OPPOSITION OBJECTION TO BILL WAS REMOVED BY AGREEMENT ON LANGUAGE CONCERNING NATIVE CLAIMS PROPOSED BY GOVERNMENT (REPORTED REFTTEL).

3. THREE ISSUES REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED DURING THIRD READING DEBATE. TWO ARE AGREED COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. FIRST WOULD ALLEVIATE PC'S CONCERN ABOUT CONTINUED CANADIAN OWNERSHIP OF PIPELINE COMPANIES. AMENDMENT PROVIDES THAT GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS POWER TO REVIEW ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP. SECOND TAKES OUT ORIGINAL LANGUAGE REGARDING APPEALS PROCESS AND SUBSTITUTES ARTICLE 28 OF THE FEDERAL COURTS ACT. NET EFFECT IS TO ALLOW REVIEW NOT ONLY OF BASIS OF FINDINGS IN LAW, BUT ALSO IN FACT, AS WELL AS AUTHORIZING ONE ADDITIONAL LEVEL OF APPEAL, THE SUPREME COURT. THIRD OUTSTANDING ISSUE IS AN AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY PC MEMBER BAWDEN TO PUT CAP ON REGULATORY AGENCY COSTS. COMMITTEE DID NOT AGREE TO THIS AMENDMENT AND IT IS NOT LIKELY TO PASS.

4. COMMENT: SOURCES IN PARLIAMENT SAY THAT ALTHOUGH PROSPECTS FOR PASSAGE ARE NOW EXCELLENT, GOVERNMENT WILL
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NOT TRY TO PUSH BILL THROUGH BEFORE EASTER RECESS. THEY DO , HOWEVER, EXPECT PASSAGE SOON AFTER PARLIAMENT RETURNS. AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE AT PIPELINE COMMISSION, HOWEVER, SAYS THAT DEPUTY PRIMIN MACEACHEN INTENDS TO MOVE BILL THROUGH FINAL PASSAGE BEFORE EASTER RECESS.

5. COPIES OF AMENDMENTS TO FOLLOW BY CABLE WHEN AVAILABLE. ENDERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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TAGS: ENRG, PGOV, SENV, CA
To: STATE
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vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/478b17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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